

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Robert H. DeBellis and Bernard F. Erlanger

Serial No.: Not Yet Known

Filed : April 6, 2001

For : METHODS OF TREATING SICKLE CELL DISEASE

1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10036
April 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
ATTN: Box Patent Applications

SIR:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the subject application as follows:

In the claims:

Please amend claims 8-13 and 17-19 under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1) as follows. A version of the amended claims marked to show the changes relative to the previous version thereof is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**:

- 8. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the hemoglobin is Hemoglobin S.--
- 9. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein the hemoglobin is Hemoglobin SC.--
- 10. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is an erythrocyte cell.--
- 11. (Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the suitable sample is a sample of erythrocyte cells.--
- 12. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the cell is present in a subject and the contacting is effected by

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administering the antiviral agent to the subject.--

- 13. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the antiviral agent is a purine analog.--
- 17. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the sickle cell disease is selected from the group consisting of sickle cell anemia, sickle β -thalassemia, sickle cell-hemoglobin C disease and any other sickle hemoglobinopathy in which hemoglobin S interacts with a hemoglobin other than hemoglobin S.--
- 18. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the subject is a mouse, rat, dog, guinea pig, ferret, rabbit, primate, or human being.--
- 19. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the antiviral agent is administered to a subject via intralesional, intramuscular, subcutaneous, intravenous, intraperitoneal, liposome mediated, transmucosal, intestinal, topical, nasal, oral, anal, ocular or otic delivery.--

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove amended claims 8-13 and 17-19. These amendments do not involve any issue of new matter. Therefore, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested such that claims 1-19 will be pending.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicants' undersigned attorneys invite the Examiner to telephone them at the number

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provided below.

No fee, other than the enclosed filing fee of \$475.00, is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of any such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,



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